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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a statement of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine of 24 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine of 24 March 1999 concerning aggressive acts by NATO against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 23 March 1999, the NATO leadership took a decision, without mandate from the United Nations Security Council, to carry out a military action against one of the Member States of the United Nations - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine considers these acts by NATO as an aggression against a sovereign State, fraught with danger of escalation into a large-scale military conflict.

Having taken the above decision, NATO flagrantly violated not only the principles of the United Nations and universally recognized norms of human ethics, but also its own basic documents, in accordance with which military operations of the Alliance may be conducted with the exclusive aim of guaranteeing the security of its Member States.

Realizing the grave danger of these developments, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

Emphasizes that the Kosovo problem can and has to be settled through political process and negotiations on the basis of the universally recognized norms of international law;

Urges all parties to the conflict to take all the necessary measures to resume the peace process in order to find the mutually acceptable solution to the Kosovo problem;

Requests the leadership of NATO and the United States of America to abandon recourse to military force as a way to find a solution to the Kosovo problem, which is an internal affair of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Urges the international community to exert maximum efforts in order to stop NATO attempts to use force in the Balkans;

Appeals to the Parliaments and Governments of Europe to prevent the military actions of NATO in Yugoslavia and to achieve, through joint efforts, a peaceful solution of the Kosovo problem;

Urges the United Nations Security Council to urgently consider at its meeting the situation created by the decision of NATO concerning the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.